

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4368

S E C R E T STOCKHOLM 2946

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, MASS, SW, IN, US, PK

SUBJECT: FINAL THOUGHTS CONCERNING MINISTER OF TRADE
LINDER'S MEETING WITH SECRETARY

1. THERE IS LITTLE NEW INFORMATION SINCE OUR CABLES
OF LAST WEEK ON SWEDISH REACTIONS TO THE US POSITION
ON THE VIGGEN. PRESS COVERAGE HAS CONTINUED BUT IN
DECLINING VOLUME. IT IS INTERESTING THAT TRADITIONAL
CRITICS OF US SUCH AS AFTONBLADET HAVE LAID OFF US
WHILE MOST BITTER COMMENT HAS COME FROM TRADITIONALLY
PRO-US SECTORS, REASON BEING THAT DEFENSE ISSUE HAS
UPSET NORMAL CONSTELLATION OF SYMPATHIES.

2. IN THIS CONNECTION, AMBASSADOR WAS TOLD BY SENIOR
SWEDISH DIPLOMAT THAT SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AND FORMER
PRIME MINISTER PALME IN PARTICULAR ARE FOLLOWING ISSUE
CLOSELY. SOCIAL DEMOCRATS ORIGINALLY BACKED VIGGEN
DEVELOPMENT AND PRINCIPLE OF SALE TO INDIA BUT MORE
RECENTLY HAVE BEEN CRITICAL OF PLANS TO DEVELOP A
MORE ADVANCED SWEDISH AIRCRAFT (B3LA) AND MAY BE
LOOKING FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO EXTEND THEIR CRITICISM OF
FALLDIN GOVERNMENT'S DEFENSE POLICIES FOR TACTICAL
POLITICAL REASONS.

3. WE REALIZE POSSIBILITY FOR REVERSAL OF US

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POSITION ARE MINIMAL OR NON-EXISTENT AND WILL NOT
ARGUE THAT POINT. WE DO HOPE THAT EVERY EFFORT WILL
BE MADE TO CUSHION THE IMPACT ON THE SWEDISH DELEGATION,
REALIZING THAT PROPONENTS OF VIGGEN SALE ARE ELEMENT
IN SWEDEN MOST COMMITTED TO A STRONG SWEDISH DEFENSE
STRUCTURE AND MOST SYMPATHETIC TO US/WESTERN
INTERESTS IN EUROPE.

KENNEDY-MINOTT

NOTE BY OC/T: DISTRIBUTION COORDINATED WITH S/S-O

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